

Please amend claims 10, 11, 13, 20 and 22 as follows:

10. (amended) An isolated polynucleotide [molecule encoding a protein according to claim 1] encoding naturally occurring mammalian thrombopoietin, wherein the polynucleotide comprises a region that is at least 80% identical to the region between nucleotide number 237 and nucleotide number 722 of SEQ ID NO:1, and wherein said thrombopoietin stimulates MPL-dependent cell proliferation.

11. (amended) An isolated polynucleotide [molecule] according to claim 10 [wherein said molecule] which is a DNA molecule comprising a coding strand comprising the sequence of nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:1 from nucleotide 237 to nucleotide [692] 722.

13. (amended) An isolated polynucleotide [molecule] according to claim 10 [wherein said molecule] which encodes the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 from amino acid residue 45 to amino acid residue [196] 206.

20. (amended) An expression vector comprising the following operably linked elements:

a transcription promoter;

a DNA segment [selected from the group consisting of:

(a) DNA segments encoding a hematopoietic protein and comprising a nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO:1 from nucleotide 237 to nucleotide 692;

(b) DNA segments encoding a hematopoietic protein and comprising a nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO:18 from nucleotide 64 to nucleotide 519;

(c) allelic variants of (a) or (b); and

(d) DNA segments encoding a hematopoietic protein that is at least 80% identical in amino acid sequence to a protein encoded by (a), (b) or (c)] encoding naturally